

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Kacie Dorn and I am writing this testimony to express my vehement opposition to HB1373. As a Pediatric ICU nurse, I understand the value of a child's life having actively participated in saving hundreds of those lives for nearly a decade. While I currently do not have any children of my own, it is legislation such as this and actions from our elected officials that have me questioning if I ever want to have children in the state that I have lived in since my own birth.

This bill is not only an outright attack on women, but an attack on the increasingly high numbers of couples that struggle with infertility. An ever-climbing number of ND residents, including numerous personal loved ones, are reliant upon fertility treatments to start a family, and this legislation conveys that the ND government does not care about or support them.

Additionally, this bill undermines the fundamental rights of individuals to make personal decisions about their reproductive health and freedom. This legislation conveys that the government should have greater authority over personal, medical decisions than the patient and their healthcare provider. The right to make decisions about one's own body is a fundamental aspect of personal freedom. Forcing individuals to carry pregnancies against their will, especially in cases of rape, incest, or severe health complications, is an unacceptable infringement on bodily autonomy.

As a woman in ND, I feel unsupported, unwanted, and unappreciated by my own government.

Sincerely,

Kacie Dorn

District 22